## The Last Week of the Thirty-first Congress.

Cur Washington Correspondence

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1851. The President's Proclomation-Cheap Postage, &c. The proclamation of President Fillmere follows close upon the heels of Governor Bell's proclamation of Texas; and although the latter has more of classic beauty, with apt and scriptural quotations to commend it, to the laughter of after ages, the tormer has the merit of meeting the danger to the Union, of a squabble, between a few niggers, unarmed, and a too yielding and timed set of legal functionaries, about Boston Common. It is a terrible tempest in a tea-pot. There will nothing pass this session but the Appropriation bills, and the anxious faces, to be seen lengthening as the session diminishes, is enough to make a sensitive man weep. It is too bad. Here are private claims, ocean steamer contracts, for carrying the mails, floating dry docks, French spoliation, patent law reform, and sundry other bills, failing for want of time fo

and sundry other bills, failing for want of time for action. Congress is a great concern, and is only equalled by the Smithsonian Institute, that pyramid of absurdity, rearing its baseless columns in accordance with the testator's language in making the bequest, "for the diffusion of knowledge among mankind."

What a huge humbug! Here is an edifice costing an immense sum of money to embellish the city of Washington, containing a lecture room to accommodate a small portion of its citizens, and a poor professor, with his family, razeed to a secretary, quarted upon the fund, and where is "the diffusion of knowledge among mankind?" The expenditure equals the enormous quantity of sack, expenditure equals the enormous quantity of sack, to a penny's worth of bread. The thing will be looked after, in a couple of years from now, and the regents will be called to a reckoning. Mark

I learn that the census agent here has placed the public funds with Seldon, Withers & Co. This, too, will be looked after. No bank or banking house should be entrusted with government funds, who do not redeem their own paper in gold and silver. Congress, at its next session, will be invited to lock into this matter. The banks of this District suspended specie payments in 1834, during the panic, and to help it on, and overthrow Gen. Jackson, and by the operation made out of the pror people of this District over \$350,000, in about nicety days. This was the science of banking, which Gen. Jackson did not understand, according to the language of Nicholas Biddle. The Lord deliver us from the science of banking!

The Cheap Postage bill and Barnabas Butes are getting on swimpingly, and you may look out for

The Cheap Postage bill and Barnabas Bates are getting on swimmingly, and you may look out for some wholesome curtailment in the expenses of the city post offices, if Gen. Rusk, the chairman of the committee in the Senate has aoviting to say; and seeing that he is the "Silas Wright" of the Senate, we may expect he will say something. Commodore Moore, once in the Texan Navy, is endeavoring to incorporate himself into the United States Navy, with a good prospect of success.

Washington, Feb. 22, 1851. Doings in Washington-Lobby Members, Sec.

There must either be a great deal of rascality going on here, or else the understandings of members of Congress must be grievously warped against what is just and right. Not a claim is brought before Congress, not a contract is made, without the lavish expenditure of money in feeling lobby members to press it. It seems that members can only be convinced by ex-commissioners of patents, ex clerks, and ex-private secretaries and letter writers, to do what is right, (i. e. to pass what

Among those "just and proper measures" which Among those "just and proper measures" which have been pressed with "vigor," we may mention the Chinese and Ebony lines of steamships—the California dry dock—the patent laws—some enormous "Galphins" in the shape of claims from Fiorida, with interest allowed, amounting to over \$700,000, now before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate—to say nothing of private bills innumerable. Some of these measures and claims may be just and right; but, at present, we wish merely to advert to the fact that not one of them is permitted to go before Congress on its own merits to advert to the fact that not one of them is per-mitted to go before Congress on its own marits-feed and paid agents are employed in all directions, to press them, and to bring all sorts of influences to bear. Even in the Senate, some of its members are feund in the pay of individuals and companies, who either desite Congressional action, or desire to prevent any action. I will refer more fully to hose matters in a day or two.

From reliable data it is estimated that the entire population of the United States and territories will be 23,100,000.

The discussion on the President's message in

be 23,100,000.

The discussion on the President's message in rep'y to Mr. Clay's resolution, was continued to-day in the Senate. Gen. Downs made a speech in su, ort of the position taken by the President, replete with that good sense and patrictism which have already placed that hon, gentleman in a high position in the hearts of the Union loving citizens of the whole country. Mr. Clemens also spoke in an eloquent and patrictic straip, as also Messrs. Cass. Dodge, and Bouglas.

Whilst the outrage in Boston must be regretted by all good men, stail it has afforded a gratifying

by all good men, still it has afforded a gratifying evide noe of the firm determination of the executive to maintain the laws; an evidence which the debate in the Senate proves is appreciated by his political in the senate proves is appreciated by his political reponents as highly as by his political friends. Fanaticism seized hold of the Boston affair; and gloated over the anticipated triumph which a repetition of the excitement of last year would promise. But the Utited States, through their chief magistrate and their representatives, have come out of the ordeal unscathed, and present another evidence of the strength and permanency of the

The following amount of United States stock has 

To al. \$29,200

We may remark, with reference to the courtmartial lately held in the case of Commodore
Jones, that the sentence did not have to be submitted to the President for his approval. By law, it is
only is cause where the sentence is death, or the
efficer is broken, that the President's confirmation IS DECESSARY.

> WASHING FOR, Feb 23, 1851. Afternoon Memorandums.

It is a waste of time to speculate upon the chances of public business, by the two houses, at this stage of the session The only certain measures of success are the appropriation bills. All the rest, of any consequence, will be clear gain.

Mr. Clay and the signers of the round-robin, we

understand, contemplate passing a bill, without much difficulty, in conformity with the suggestions of the President's message; but from what we hear on the other side, Mr. Clay will find himself very much mistaken when he comes to try the experi-

grand turn out to the benefit of Kossuth and his grand turn out to the benefit of Koseuth and his companions in exile.

The Washington Birthday Anniversary Ball at Carusi's Saloon, to night, (\$5) was an elegant affair. The President and cabinet, Gen. Scott, and the diplomatic corps, were present, together with a very respectable attendance from both houses. Quite a number of beautiful strangers, also, were among the stars of the evening.

P. S.—The friends of the Ebony line expect to carry it on the naval bill, and the friends of the Texas navy count upon another amendment.

French spoliations look exceedingly dark; still a last despairing effort is yet to be made. But with the fortification bill laid upon the table for want of money, five millions for those and questing the start of the start of those and questions.

want of money, five millions for those and ques-tionable claims may well be considered as out of the question. We shall see.

WASHINGTON, February 21, 1851.

The Proclamation-Chance of Gen. Scott, &c. The proclamation of the President is an importan document, taking the highest legal ground against the rioters in Boston, their aiders and abettors; but, for all that, not sufficiently expansive to cover all

the grounds of complaint that the general government has against the civil authorities of Massachusetts. If the civil authorities of Boston and Mayor Bigelow had done their duty, the sword of the U.S. Marshal, instead of being flourished over the heads of his depuities, would have done its office in teaching a lawless negro mob to respect the laws The proclamation orders the pursuit of the fugi.

The proclamation orders the pursuit of the fugitive, and the arrest and trial of the perpetrators, aiders, and abettors of the outrage; but it is neither retrospective nor expressive of the determination of the President to prevent similar occurrences in future. The latter, to be sure, may be inferred from the present; but a public document intended to guide the acting of the people, ought to be explicit, and leave as little as possible to the inference of the reader. I have reason to believe that, in a quiet way, the President has done more than meets the eye of the public. The naval and military commanders of the troops and navy yard at Charlestown have, no doubt, received orders to act in an emergency; and the services of volunteer commanies which have been effered, have been accepted, in case the law officers of the United States should be again resisted in the discharge of their duties. All this is very well; but not enough. By a law, the prisons of the State of Massachusetts cannot be used for the safe keeping of fugitives from labor; and, as there is, beyon't adoubt, a fixed, determined purpose, on the part of a number of abolitionists and tanatice, in and out of office, in the city of Boston, to prevent the execution of the fugitive slave law, the navy yard at Charlestown, or some vessel of war statuoned there, should be temporarily used for the imprisonment of runaway slaves. The principal object of the administration should be to prevent mischief, not to punish it; and the efficiency of Mr. Fillmore will be judged of, by the degree of energy he may display in that direction.

Now, I shrewdly suspect that though the whole cabinet may be a unit in principle, and profess the same orthodox faith, yet the individual members affer as to the modus operandi; Mr. Webster being probably the most zealous and energetic, and some of the Southern and Western members more patient, circumspect, and looking to ulterior popularity. As to Mr. Fillmore, he is always ready to the highty-but prehase and only the process of tive, and the arrest and trial of the perpetrators,

some of the Southern and Western members more patient, circumspect, and looking to ulterior popularity. As to Mr. Fillmore, he is always ready to do his duty; but perhaps not quite resolved to use the strongest coercive measures in the teginning. All practical lessons that history has taught governments, seem to teach, however, that rebellions must be crushed at once in their incipient state, while they are yet riots, if disaffection shall not become general, and that this is the cheapest and most effective way of preventing mischief. The President might recollect that in proportion to the energy he may display toward Massachusetts, will he be justified in the adoption of coercive measures towards other States that may feel disposed to set the lawsof the United States, and the allegiance they owe to the general government, at defiance. they owe to the general government, at defiance, Mr. Webster's presence in the cabinet is, at this crisis, a providential thing, though the friends of the Union may not know to what extent they are indebted for their safety to the "great coastitutional examinder."

indebted for their safety to the "great coastitutional expounder."

General Scott is making some headway here in
Washington. Though in the leading strings of
Gov Seward, he succeeds in making impressions
on all men and women he comes in contact with.
The fact is, Gen. Scott is not only a great captain,
like Mariborough, Prince Eugene, his grace Field
Marshal the Duke of Wellington, but also a great
diplomat, remembering the great diplomatic rule
for smothering all the difficulties in the way of his
desires, by dinners, balls, and perties. There are
few men here in Washington that cannot be softened by champagne or madeira; at all events, I
have seen many of them becoming quite mellow.
General Scott, in fine, is managing his game very
well; or some friend, who has the prudence of readering himself invisible, manages to do so for him.
Gen. Scott has friends in and out of the cabinet, in
and out of the Senate, in and out of the House of

Gen. Scott has friends in and out of the cabinet, in and out of the Senate, in and out of the House of Representatives, and will be the whig candidate for President in 1852, from the want of resolution in others to boldly assume that postion.

There is a strong feeling now on the part of many of the Southern ultras to come again back to the democratic fold, and to go in for a national democratic ticket. The feeling is reciprocal on the part of the compromise men, and even the barnburaers are willing to go into convention with the ultra South, and make certain concessions, necessary to South, and make certain concessions, necessary to the success of the democratic ticket. There has been some talk of establishing a democratic free soil paper here in Washington; but it is all smoke. Such a paper could not succeed here, were it edited by Mr. Benton himself.

Gen. Scott may have the start on the whig side,

but Mr. Fillmore follows close at his heels, and but Mr. Fillmore follows close at his heels, and the lieutenant general is about to be exposed to a "fire in the rear." These are not the times, say the Southern whigs, 'o buy a cat in a bag. Gen. Scott must speak out boldly, manly, and un-hesitatingly, on all the leading topics of the day. He is too highly polished a man to be "rough," let him at least be ready, or the Southern whigs will support a ticket of their own, even if Gen. Scott should be nominated.

support a ticket of their own, even if Gen. Scott should be nominated.

There is some talk of such a ticket as Dickinson and Davis (of Mississippi); but that would be too much leaning to the South. Dickinson and Cobb would be more conciliatory; but Cass and Foote are ahead of all at this time. Of all the Southern ultras, Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, has shown the most ability and tact, and there is none that I know who could be more acceptable, as a nullfier, to the Northern democracy. Buchanan and Woodbury have no strength in the Northwest; and Gea. Sam Houston will only be nominated if, in the general confusion of parties, a direct appeal must be made to the voting millions. The extreme South are more opposed to Gen. Houston than to any Northern man, were he actually a free soiler.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 25, 1851. Afternoon Report - General condition of offairs a the Federal Copital.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate, to which was referred the President's message in reference to the late rescue of a fugitive slave in Boston from the officers of the law, have not ye: had a meeting on the subject. They will meet tomorrow morning, and while, of course, it is mere conjecture, we suppose it is too late, and will be discovered by the committee, that it is too late to legislate upon the President's suggestions at this

1846, which failed, on a point of order, by a dozen votea. But if the bill from the Senate, providing four general appraisers of imports, be taken up, there will yet be a chance for coal and iron, althere will yet be a chance for coat and iron, although, to all practical results, good for nothing. The tariff will go over. French speliations can be passed, if the bill is reached; for, without a word of debate, under the previous question, we have no doubt it could be passed by a decided majority, just as it came from the Senate. But even the friends of the measure descriptor caching the bill. It lies of the measure despair of reaching the bill. It lies under a heavy pile on the Speaker's table, and to get at in time, the rules must be suspended, which require the vole of two-thirds. While there is life there is hope, and this is the hope of French spo-listions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 1851. Some of the Items of the Appropriation Bills, and the General Result.

Prominent among the items of the Civil and Dilomatic bill, are the following:-To complete the San Francisco Custom

We find a very important proviso in the bill, limiting bounty land people to laws already brought into market, and now subject to private sale. This prevents their monopolizing the choicest parcels of the unadvertised public lands, a game which has been practised to a considerable extent. The city of Washington incidentally comes in

for a handsome allowance to the public buildings and grounds, watchmen, &c , and the improvement of the city, such as the grading and paving, and lighting of streets, cleaning the canal, building culverts, care of bridges, planting trees and fences 

Contingent expenses.......... 525,700 874,600 For mail transportation.....

\$3,476,000 Mails across Panama isthmus.... Post Office clerks, exclusive of General 45,000 Post Office .... 425 000 Miscellaneous ....

Total \$6,449,000

—A considerable increase of expenditure for this department, the bill heretofore ranging between four and five millions. ARMY BILL.

Incidentals do. Barracks, quarters, hospitals, &c..... 235,000 400.000 Officers' transportation
Army transportation
Menufacture of arme
All other items, including several light 360,000 861.773

Total...... \$7,413,973 

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1851. The Bounty Land Law-More Shinplasters - Relief of Father Ritchie-Probable Shelving of Miss Dix's Bill of \$12,500,000- The Grand Fancy Dress Ball-Booth and Son-Sir William Don. Se. Se. There is a fine prospect before us for a shin, laster

currency to the extent of \$25,000,000 in land warrants. The resolution of the House, making them assignable, has passed the Senate; and there is too much Buncombe in it to count upon anything else than the agreement of the House in the Senate amendments, which only add to the list of beneficiaries another batch or two of Indian fighters. The bill was originally as broad a piece of humbugging for Buncombe as the veriest demagogue could have invented. The old soldier who sells his 160 acre warrant to a sharper for fifty dollars, in a pinch, will, uron his "sober, second thought," declare the gratuity a humbug; but the speculator who buys a hundred such warrants, on such terms,

measure.

But, after all, this is but one of the numerous expedients for a grab at the public lands in the ge-

who buys a hundred such warrants, on such terms, will hold the law to be a most wise and beneficial measure.

But, after all, this is but one of the numerous expedients for a grab at the public lands in the general scramble; and we feel quite comfortable with the assurance that not another dollar clear gain will the Treesury ever receive for that noble property of the public domain.

Miss Dix's bill for ten millions of acres, to be divided among all the States for the benefit of the lunatics, does not appear to go down so well. Lunatics have no voces—old soldiers have. Besides, the lunatic bill involves the doctrine of the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands among the States. We must come to it, and go for it, if the old States intend to get their share in the scramble. A fair divide all around; the public lands in Illinois are a little more the property of New York than of Illinois herself; and it is high time our delegation were waking up to that fact.

The House having passed the resolution for the relief of Father Ritchie, to relieve him of his bardensome contract of the public printing, we have no doubt of the Senate. This will put a plum in the old man's pocket, and will encourage the democrats to a handsome thing in exchange. One good turn deserves another, and Uncle Sam has a long pocket.

The grand fancy dress assembly last night, at Jackton Hall, was a beautiful affair. During the evening, we suppose at least one thousand persons in all, were present. The ball was, undoubtedly, the gem of the season. A large majority of the dancers were in costume; and the celebrated entertainments of the kind at Newport and Saratoga were vividly revived in our recollection on entering the room. The number and variety of characters represented in this instance were not so great, nor was the quantity of splendid fressing comparable to the display at the last grand fandango, of all naturns and classes at the Ocean House; but the affair was elegant for all that; and there were some beauties present, only "a can be other side, Mr. Clay will find himself very much mistaken when he comes to try the experiment.

In the Southern Rights State Convention, election of the Southern Rights State Convention, and the confidence of the Southern States.

We must keep an eye upon South Carolina; for though simpotent, per ac, to do any serious maschied, dischard the post of the Southern States.

During the past tendary, several shooting affairs, however, the past tendary, several shooting affairs, have occurred within this city, upon private and continuous continuous and the confidence of the southern States.

During the past tendary, several shooting affairs have occurred by the Southern States.

Our Nicargua affairs are in state gay. Sorry to say that is all. What with infinished atomatic the state of the southern sta

Affairs at the New York State Capital, OUR ALBANY CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANY, FEB. 20, 1851. Amendment Proposed to the State Constitu

tion, to Preserve the Pu ity and Indipendence of the Elective Franchise. Mr. Senstor Mann, of the Oneida district, abou. week since, offered a resolution for the consideration of the Legislature, proposing to amend section two of article two of the Constitution, by adding these words: " Laws may be passed for depriving every person of the right to vote, or to hold any office, who shall, in violation of law, give, pay, or receive any promises, money, or any other property, er valuable consideration, with intent to influence the vote of any elector, or to promote the election of any candidate, or ticket, or to change or affect

the vote of any election, with intent to influence the vote of any election, of any candidate, or ticket, or to change or affect the result of any election."

There are laws now in existence under the present provisions of the constitution, depriving any person from the right of voting who shall become, directly or indirectly, interested in any bet or wager, depending upon the result of any election. There is also a law in the books which makes it an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding two huadred and fifty dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, to pay, or promise, or furnish any money, or other property, to be expended in procuring the attendance of votes at the polls, or to contribute money for the purpose of promoting the election of any particular person or ticket. Mr. Mann's proposition goes further, and disfranchises every man guilty of using money for such purposes, from the exercise of the elective franchise, and of holding office for ever. The framers of the constitution undoubtebly imagined that they had guarded sufficiently the purity of the elective franchise, in the provisions which they incorporated in that instrument. But the experience of only four years has shown conclusively that extensive frauds are committed at every election by the aid, and through the irrisistible influence of money. The evil is increasing annually, notwithstanding he penal laws which now exist. What dread do hoose laws inflict? Has there ever been a conviction under them? Suppose, in the heat of a political excitement, the case of an offender is submitted for the consideration of a grand jury, will his political friends unite with his enemies in an indictment shall be found, where can a petit jury of twelve men be selected from a legally returned panel, who will agree upon a conviction? Such offences are considered as political merely, and partizans will adhere to each other in defiance of oath, law, or constitution. Political ties are considered by thousands as the higher law," which will be obeyed,

The fact is as notorious as the sun in the heavens, that our most respectable and would-be considered honorable citizens, contribute as regularly to this corruption fund as they do towards the support of their spiritual teachers. From the same pocket is drawn funds for Christianizing the heathen in Hindostan, and for heathenizing the Christians in this commonwealth. Funds are now as readily provided by the same hand, to bribe and corrupt voters, as to spread the gospel. And it is feared, if not positively known, that high official dignitaries are now making and executing laws, and sitting in seats of judgment and power, whose money was contributed towards securing their own election. How can such men and magistrates be regarded as pure, honorable, impartial and virtuous, who have obtained an ascendancy over a competitor by means thus disgraceful! If they possess any semblance of a conscience, it cannot avoid being seared continually. The fact is as notorious as the sun in the hea-

Of what avail is it, that we undertake to diffuse knowledge and promote morality among the people, if an honest exercise of the elective franchise cannot be effected? The exercise of that right is nearly universal, being guaranteed by the constitution of 1821, and re-affirmed by that of 1846, to every of 1821, and re-affirmed by that of 1840, to every citizen, without regard to condition, whether learn ed or ignorant, whether rich or poor, whether ex-alted or reduced. If the present practice of cor-rupting voters shall be permitted to continue a quarter of a century longer, we need no longer point to the rotten boroughs of England, but we shall have a practical exhibition of bribery, more openly manifested amongst ourselves, on this side penly manifested amongst ourselves, on

addressed the Senate yesterday, in support of the amendment which he proposed to the constitution, to preserve the elective franchise from bribery, in a speech abounding in ideas which appeared to be convincing to the members, as his remarks were listened to with profound silence and the most respectful attention. His facts, illustrations, and reasonings, must have been conclusive, as no Senator attempted to make any reply. It is the most important subject which has, or can be, brought before the Legislature during this session. It is a matter of no political character, as all parties have distinguished members who are slike guilty of buying voters—all are cognizant of the fact—and they should, as honest men, unite in amending the constitution, to prevent the onward flow of corruption at elections, and avert an evil which is surely and rapidly accumulating. If there are any men, in either branch of the Legislature, who shall attempt to oppose the consummation of this righteous measure, he will unquestionably be stigmatised as the advocate of fraud, corruption, and bribery, in the exercise of the elective franchise. Such a man may be found in the Legislature; but before he ventures on his expedition, let him "watch and pray." W. support of the amendment which he proposed to the constitution, to preserve the elective franchise

ALBANT, Feb. 21, 1851. known as Washington's Head Quarters.

Several years since Mr. Jonathan Hasbrouck, of Orange county, obtained a loan from the State of ome three thousand dollars from the United States deposit fund, and gave as security for the payment of interest and the ultimate re-payment of principal, a mortgage upon certain premises lying very near the village of Newburgh, on the west side of the Hudson river. Mr. H. thinking, probably, that he would not be called upon for the payment of principal and interest by the State before the general government demanded the deposit fund from the State, rested content until the mortage was foreclosed and the property soid. Oa the day of sale no person appeared willing to bid sufficient sum for the property to indemnify thea State for the amount then due. The Compiroller was therefore compelled to bid it in, as the agent of the State, for the sum of two thousand three hundred and ninety one dollars. During the last session of the Legislature, a few patriotic gentlemen of Newburgh conceived the idea to revive the revolutionary reminiscences connected with the Hasbrouck house, and petitioned that the property might remain in possession of the State. Their analysis of the state of the state. ment of principal and interest by the State before revolutionary reminiscences connected with the Hasbrouck house, and petitioned that the property might remain in possession of the State. Their application was successful; the sum of one thousand and eight hundreddollars was contributed for the purpose of preserving the then condition of the building; placed the property in the hands of the trustees of the village of Newburgh, and appointed a steward, with a salary from the State Treasury, to escort strangers and visiters upon and about the premises, whenever any may desire to visit Washington's head Quarters. On the 4th day of last July an interesting celebration was held on the premises; the banner which the State had procured was run up the flag staff, an oration was delivered, and other appropriate ceremonies occurred. Having been prepared for visitors, several hundred during the last summer availed themselves of examising the house in which Washington dwelt during the most exciting and critical period of the revolutionary war. Having thus been brought into public notice, Mr. Jonathan Hasbrouck, who suffered the property to fall in the hands of the State, now comes forward with a petition asking the State to resell him the property. His petition was referred to the committee on public lands in the House of Assembly, by whom a report has just been made. The committee remark, thus:—"Among all the objects of revolutionary interest possessed by our country, none is knit closer with patriotic reminiscences by whom a report has just been made. The committee remark, thus.—'Among all the objects of revolutionary interest possessed by our country, none is knit closer with patriotic reminiscences than the antiquated Hasbrouck house, a venerable relic of the olden time. It was in this tenement that the father of his country answered the incendiary Newburgh letters, which were written to inflame the minds and destroy all confidence in the hearts of the gallant soldiers of the revolution, sowing the seeds of treason, jealousy and discontent. The touching eloquence breathed through that address stilled forever those unquiet spirits, and in Washington's own language "gave one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patriot virtue rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings, giving occasion for posterity to say, (when speaking of the glorious example they have exhibited to mankind) had that day been wanting, the world had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining." It was to this house he returned after the saddening execution of Andre, when mercy and justice stroggled in his bosom, yet, with more than Spartan herousm, he sacrified every weaker feeling upon the sacred altar of a nation's retribution. That while the escutcheons of every State in this confederacy are being engrafted in a manument in honor of him who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countryllen," it seems pecuniarly appropriate that this humble tenement, as in case of Aristides of old, should be turned, by a generous and patriotic people, into a temple to bis fame, identified with the precious turned, by a generous and patriotic people, into a temple to his fame, identified with the precious memories of the past, and tae priceless hopes of the futpre."

Thus the committee spoke in their report to the

House, recommending the State to retain possession of that revolutionary relic, which has been during the last year preserved from that decay and dilapidation to which it was fast hastening, in the hands of Mr. Hasbrough. Although the petitioner may have recently awakened to the recollection of the fact, that the premises descended to him through a long line of ancestors, and therefore wishes to regain possession as a family heritage; still when all the facts are taken into consideration, especially, that of having yielded to the temptation of horrowing money upon its pledge, it does not show that he possessed any particular affection for the premises until they become noted—since they become the property of the State. The committee refused to recommend to the Legislature, a re-sale.

ALBANY, Feb. 24, 1851. A Contest to retain a Seat in the Senate, and another to obtain one in the House-An Extra Session talked of, to make new Congressional Districts.

It is now rendered certain that I was mistaken in a former communication, when I stated that Mr. Schoonmaker did not desire to retain his sea! in the Senate, in consequence of having been elected to Congress, after the 4th of March. The discussion on Friday clearly discloses the fact that Mr. S. desires to retain his seat in the Legislature of this State to the last moment of its session.

Some ten weeks since, Mr. Johnson introduced a bill repealing a section in the revised statues, which declares that a member of the Legislature, elected to Congress, shall, within ten days after the fourth of March, signify his acceptance of the office of member of Congress, or he shall be deemed as having declined such acceptance. On Friday, the Senate went into discussion on the bill for the repeal of that section of the revised statutes. The entire day, down to six o'clock in the evening, was consumed in committee five-sixths of the time, in a rambling talk by Mr. Carroll, for the purpose of staving off action until a future day, with the hope that a democratic majority might then be able to prevent the bill from being passed in committee. The whig majority, however, stood their ground manfully, and took early precaution to send their janitor for a supply of crackers, cheese, brandy, and other stomach supporters. The call of the Senate brought back several Senators, who had purposely absented themselves, when a quorum passed the oill.

As the repeal of the statute was openly contended to apply to the case of Mr. Schoonmaker, it appeared very indelicate, if not inappropriate in him, to take part in the Senate after the 4th of March. Mr. Babcock, the whig leader, plainly stated, that if the statute was not repealed, Mr. Scould not remain in his seat after the 14th of March, unless he gave notice to the Secretary of State of his non-acceptance of the office of member of Congress. Although Mr. S. did not address the committee during the discussion on the bill, still he remained in his seat during the entire session, voting upon every motion in behalf of himself. One of the Senators, in the course of of member of Congress, or he shall be deemed as

on the bill, still he remained in his seat during the entire session, voting upon every motion in behalf of himself. One of the Senators, in the course of a speech, propounded a few interrogatories to the member of Congress elect, the answers to which will show the anxiety Mr. Schoomaker felt for the immediate repeal of a law which stands in the way of his remaining a Senator only a few days longer. The colloquy ran substantially thus:

Mr. Stone, addressing himself to Mr. Schoomaker 'Do you consider vourself a member of Congress

"Do you consider yourself a member of Congress after the 14th of March next?

Mr. Schoomaker—"No, sir, I do not."

Mr. Stone, again—" When, then, do you expect, by virtue of your election, to become a member of Congress?

ongress ! Mr. Schoomaker-" When I take the oath upon

the assembling of Congress, on the first Monday in December next."

in December next."

Another question was put, enquiring whether Mr. Schoomaker considered that a vacancy existed in his congressional district, between the third of March, when his predecessor's term expires, and the third day of December, when he expected to be sworn into office—to which no reply was made. These facts show that Mr. S. had a personal desire to hold his seat to the last moment.

Now, after all, it may not be that Mr. Schoon-

made. These facts show that Mr S. had a personal desire to hold his seat to the last moment.

Now, after all, it may not be that Mr. Schoon-maker should be reproached for his anxiety to retain a seat. In the lirst place, no election for United States Senator has yet been effected; neither has a day been fixed upon when another trial shall be had. And as there is much difficulty, and prebably an maurmountable obstacle intervening, still circumstances may arise towards the latter end of the session, which will render Mr. S.'s vote indispersible in settling this much mooted and perplexingly "vexed question."

But there is another reason, and one which I think is the prominent cause for retaining Mr. S. in the Senate. It is the formation of Congressional districts under the late census. It is now ascertained that a full compilation of the returns throughout the the whole country, cannot be completed in the Home Department at Washington, before the expiration of the hundred days for which the members of the Legislature get paid. Therefore, it is now a matter of paramount importance that an extraordinary session of the Legislature should be held in the course of the coming summer, in order to district the State, for the next ten years. This is a matter of much consequence, for politicians in power well know how to gerrymander the State so as to benefit their own party interests. And unless Mr. Schoomaker can, by any "hook or crook," be retained in his seat, the whigs will not have a constitutional majority in the Senate, and consequently no extra session will be called, and the whigs will "trust to luck" for a majority in the next Legislature, when both houses will be new boddes. Therefore, Mr. S., as a party man, is probably excusable for his course in the Senate, and consequently in the secure of the course o gislature, when both houses with is probably ex-Therefore, Mr. S., as a party man, is probably ex-cusable for his course in the Senate, on Friday, in cusable for his course in the Senate, on Friday, in voting so frequently upon questions involving his own right to a seat in that body after the 4th day of March.

of March.

It was declared by a democratic Senator, during debate, and repeated with much emphasis, that any vote which Mr. S. may give upon the question of United States Senator, or in organizing Congressional districts, after the 4th of March, that protests would be entered, his vote challenged, and the validity of such votes be contested before an United States tribunal and the expounders of the constitution of this State.

the validity of such votes be contested before an United States tribunal and the expounders of the constitution of this State.

Extra sessions of Congress or the Legislature have not been well countenanced by the people, and it is doubtful whether Mether Governor Hunt will issue his proclamation for one.

In the House there has been a sharp contest for several days, in relation to the seat held by Mr. Jayne, of Yates county, contested by a Mr. Underwood. The claim which the latter gentleman sets up, and relied upon to oust his democratic adversary, was not fortified with sufficient testimony to warrant the committee on privileges and elections, though a majority of his party friends, in reporting favorable on his petition. They are both admitted to seats in the House, but Mr. Jayne only is permitted to speak and vote, to which privilege he is entitled in consequence of appearing with a certificate from the county canvassers of his election. On Friday, the House concluded to send the chairman of the committee, Mr. Bishop, out to Yates county, in search of further testimony te sustain the application of Mr. Underwood to a seat. The controversy will undoubtedly continue, as in the Orange county case last year, until near the close of the session, the sitting member and also the contestant receiving full pay, and "stealings in." So it goes with those who love the "dear people."

ALBANY, March 1, 1851. Another Interest Bill in Albany.

Mr. Morgan, from a select committee, reported, this morning, to the Senate, the following very im-

this morning, to the Senate, the following very important bill:

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE INTEREST OF MONEY.

See. 1. The interest of money shall continue to be at the rate of seven dollars, and no more, upon one hundred dollars for a year, and at the same rate for a quarter or less sum and for a longer or shorter term.

Sec. 2. No contract or assurance fer the payment of money, with interest, at a greater rate of interest than is allowed by the preceding section, shall be thereby rendered void; but, whenever in any action, brought on such contractor assurance, it shall appear, upon a special answer to the complaint being made to that effect, that a greater rate of interest has been directly or indirectly reserved, taken, or received, than is allowed by law, the defendant shall recover his tuil costs, and the whole interest reserved or taken, and the plaintiff shall have judgment for the belance only, which shall remain due after deducting the whole amount of said interest.

Sec. 3. Whenever a greater rate of interest than is allowed by the first section of this law shall have been paid, the party paying the same may recover back the amount of the whole interest paid, provided an action shall be prosecuted within two years from the time when the said interest shall have been paid.

Sec. 4. In the trial of any action wherein it shall appear, by the pleadings, that the fact of unlawful interest having been taken or reserved, is put in issue, it shall be lawful for the debtor (the crediter being literally and the creditor, it he shall offer his testimony, shall also be admitted as such; and the creditor, it he shall offer his testimony, shall also be admitted as such; and the creditor, it he shall offer his testimony, shall also be admitted as witness, together with any other legal evidence that may be introduced by either party.

party.

Fro 5. For the purpose of calculating interest, a month shall be considered the twelfth part of a year, and as consisting of thirty days and interest of any number of days less than a month shall be estimated by the proportion which such number of days shall

humber of days less than a month shall be estimated by the proportion which such number of days shall bear to thirty. Sau 6. So much of title third, chapter fourth, and part second, of the Revised Statutes and of the laws of 1837, chapter 430, as is incensistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby appealed. A terrific sterm passed over Cambridge, Md. a few days since, which unroofed the Court Home, and bles down several houses. The damage in the country ad juent is considerable.

Our Trop Corre

The Legislative Anniversary Dinner.

The annual legislative dinner came off yesterday, as per programme. The company was more numerous than on any former occasion, amountirg to some three hundred, among whom were his Excellency Governor Hunt; his Honor, Lieutenant Governor Church; Mr. Morgan, Secretary of State; Mr. Chatfield, Attorney General; Canal Commissioner Mather, and many other State officials. Nearly all the Senaters and members of the House of Assembly were present, besides a large number of the elice out Troy, at whose expense this entertainment was got up. The dinner was provided under the superintendence of Charles S. Coleman, a brother to your popular Astor House Coleman, and a caterer of equal excellence and celebrity. I can-not better give you an idea of the abundance and magnificence of this affair than by asking you to

TROY, Feb. 23, 1951.

BILL OF FARE. AT THE TROY HOUSE.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH-DAY DINNER. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1851.

Mock Tartle. Soup.

Striped Bass, Steward Haddock, Stuffed, Wine

Sauce.

Sauce.

Coefish, Egg Sauce.

Color District.

Foned Turkey.

Boned Chickens.

Ecned Partridges.

Boned Game Pics.

Boned Game Pics.

Bened Game Pics. Foned Turkey.
Bened Chickens.
Bened Partridges.
Boned Game Pies.
Boiled Turkey, Oyster Boiled Chicken, Gelery
Sauce. Leg of Mutton, Caper S'ce. Calves Head, Pickle Sa'ce.

Tender Loin of Beef, Lard Chicken Salad, French ed.
Crequettes of Chicken Filot of Beef, Madiera Sweet Breads, with Mush-rooms.
Lamb Cheen Breaded Calves Tongues, Pepper Lamb Cheen Breaded Sweet Breads, with MushTooms.
Lamb Chops, Breaded.
Less Chicken, Duck
Venison Chops, Currant
Filet of Chicken, Toast.
Filet of Chicken, Toast.
Filet of Chicken, Toast.
Gysters Pie.
Filet of Partridge, with
Truffles.

Rosar.
Capon Chickens, Larded.
Suttoin of Macaroni.
Rosar.
Capon Chickens, Larded.
Suttoin of Macaroni.
Rosar.
Capon Chickens, Larded.
Saddle of Mutton.
Suttoin of neef.
Loin of Veal, Larded.
Goose.
Goose.

Turkeys.
Saddle of Venison.
Canvass Back Ducks.
Prairie Hens.
Wild Goose
Prigeons.
VEGETABLES OF THE SEASOS.
DESERT.

French Kirses, with Cream. Apples, with Rice.

Brench Kirses, with Cream. Apples, with Rice.
Charlotte de Russe. Wine Jelly. Oranges Prosted,
Chocelate Cream. Fruit Jelly. Apple Charlotte.
Port Jelly. Rum Jelly, Plum Tarts. Apple Tarts.
Mince Tarts. Cranberry Tarts. Vanilla Ice Cream.
Apple Charlotte Biane Mange. Lemon Ice Gream.
Plum Pudding.
PRAMIDS.
Maccatoni. Frosted Cakes. Nugat. French Klasses.
FRUITS.

After the substantials were liberally disposed of by the guests, the regular toasts were read, approved, and of course adopted by a plentiful infusion of champagne, as eash one was read. Then came speech making. Gov. Hunt responded to a sentiment intended as a compliment to the "Governor of the Empire State." The Governor is a tolerably ready, off-hand speaker on most occasions, but it seemed last night as if he felt considerably embarrassed. His remarks were listened to with attention, but they did not fall from his lips with that fullness and freedom that have characterized his speeches on other hilarious occasions. At the Gilbert dinner in Albany, when he was Comptroller, his remarks had a much more

sions. At the Gilbert dinner in Albany, when he was Comptroller, his remarks had a much more happy and enlivening effect.

The gallant and universally honored Major General Wool also responded to a toest given in honor of the United States Army. The General is a brave soldier, and stands upon the roll of fame next to Major General Winfield Scott among the living defenders of American honor. The General has carved a fame to glory and renown his name and deeds of noble daring are upon the lips of all his countrymen, and all desire that, as they are the property of the nation, they may be fondly cherished, and transmitted to fature generations.

Lieut Governor Church was called up, and addressed the meeting for a few moments, with

Lieut. Governor Church was called up, and addressed the meeting for a few moments, with much earnestness and animation. From his usual modest appearance, a person would not suppose there was as much fire in him as he exhibited at the supper table last night. He spoke eloquently fluertly and feelingly, but very inappropriately. His speech was of the ultra free soil stamp, altogether unfitting the occasion. It was a bold bid for the gubernatorial chair in 1853. He was enthusiastically cheered by Senators Johnson Schoonmaker and other whig free soil Senators, although his casting vote, a few days since, prevented those gentlemen from making ex-Governor Fish United States Senator. Mr. Church is a ready speaker, and would make a popular orator should he mount the hustings.

The next speaker whom the meeting mounted upon a chair, was J. W. Fowler, of Balliston Spathing gentleman is the popular principal of the National Law School in that village, kept in the old Sans Souci, formerly one of the most celebrated hotels in the United States, when Balliston was the great resort for Southern invalids, during the summer months. Mr. Fowler made the most appropriate speech that was made during the evening, and was listened to with greater satisfaction than either of the others. His theme was "Washington, and his brave

the most appropriate speech that was made during the evening, and was listened to with greater satisfaction than either of the others. His theme was "Washington, and his brave compatriots of the revolution." His allusion to the father of his country, to Generals Stark, Putnam, and others, was as effort of patriotic crattery seldom surpassed, and received from his listeners the most enthusiastic and almost unrestrained applause. Professor Fowler is a finished master of eloquence, if there is one in the United States, and well deserves to be placed at the head of an institution like the law school, where the gems of eloquence and oratory are implanted in the minds of the aspiring youth of our country.

There were also several other speeches and harangues afterwards made; but as the workings of the champagne began now to be developed in hissings, hurrahs, ribaldry and ladian yells, the amusements of the evening, at eight o'clock, were brought to a close. The train of cars for Albany now appeared in front of the Troy House, and Messre Lesley, Carrol, Mather, myself, and a few others, accompanied the honourable, the members of the Legislature "homeward bound," as far as East Albany. Thus ended the anniversary of Washington's birth-day in Troy.

Our Richmond Correspondence.

Our Richmond Correspondence.

RIDHMOND, Feb. 21, 1850. Gas in Richmond-Ascending Inclined Planes-Successful Experiment of Mr. French's lavention for Accomplishing this Object, &c., &c.

This city after a long period of darkness, has a length been blessed with gas. The streets now present an agreeable difference to what they did ome nights since, when it was really dangerous to walk or drive without a lantern.

A great improvement in railroads has been made by James S. French, Esq , of this State, by which he can ascend the undulating surfaces of the earth without going to the expense of excavating or without going to the expense of excavating or filling up. The experiments that have been made before the Legislature, demonstrate the entire practicability of this road being adopted to the greater advantage of any other that is now known, combining, as it does, half the cost, half the time, and a perfect security in travelling, as trains may proceed at any velocity, either on a straight road or at a curve, without a possibility of being thrown from the track. The road on which the experiments were made is built on a grade of two hundred feet to the mile; a small engine of only three tons drew up a passenger car with one bundred and fifty persons, stopping at any moment, either descending or ascending, while proceeding at a velocity of twenty miles an hour. A road constructed on this plan is not affected by either frest or snow, as adhesion, in any quantity may be obtained, thus enabling an engine to ascend higher grades, and carry larger loads than, could otherwise be done. The best engineers of the State have examined it, and have failed to offer a single reason why it should not be adopted, thus tactify confessing its entire superiority to all others now in use. Should Mr. French succeed in having it adopted by the State, in the construction of some of her roads, he will be the most successful inventor ever known, as his plan must be used hereafter on all roads, not only in the United State, but throughout the world. I will call or Mr. Fr. and obtain a mechanical description of his invention, which I will send you in a few days. filling up. The experiments that have been made

A GANG OF COUNTERFEITERS BROKEN UP.—The-Freeman, of Jefferson, N. Y. relates the circumstances attending the breaking up of a gang of theeves, counterfeitors, and depredators in general. By this report, a Mr Scoville, who lost \$1,200 worth of clothing last October, recovers his property, as do also several others. A man a smedwilcox—a leading spirit in the gang—was committed to jail and escaped last fall, and assuming the name of Brown, went to reside in Trogs Co., Pa. He was caught through the influence of a prisoner who was in juil at the time of W.'s escape, but refused to accompany him. Several arrests have already been made.